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The top 25 Bulk Milk Cell Counts recognise suppliers whose milk has an outstanding cell count reading and was in the premium band for Thermodorics, Bactoscan and inhibitory substances.

Bulk Milk Cell Counts

Number	Supplier Name	Region	BMCC Average
1	C & C Simpson	Cooriemungle	34,000
2	RF & NP Bourk	Wool Wool	39,000
3	Ballangeich Run Pty Ltd	Ellerslie	40,000
3	D C Johnson Pty Ltd	Minhamite	40,000
4	I & R Nunn	Tyrendarra	47,000
5	Howard Partnership	Cobden	48,000
6	Jarod & Ebonie McVilly	Cooriemungle	50,000
7	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	Taroon	51,000
7	TDW Farming Pty Ltd	Panmure	51,000
8	HW & BE Elliott	Willatook	52,000
9	RG & TA Morey (Rachael)	Nirranda	53,000
9	Graeme, Dianne & Steven Hooker	Cooriemungle	53,000
10	Rod & Libby Swayn	Nalangil	54,000
10	Tim & Anne McSween	Terang	54,000
11	Gerard & Barbara Sinnott	Yambuk	56,000
11	J,S&T Brown	Princetown	56,000
11	Bidgemah Trust (N & E Hayes)	Nullawarre	56,000
12	DL & SE Kent	South Dreeite	58,000
13	Mark & Karen Ryan	Toolong	59,000
14	C & C Costin	Princetown	60,000
14	P & J Mahony	Allansford	60,000
14	Michael & Nicole Uebergang	Ayrford	60,000
15	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	Port Fairy	62,000
16	Keiran & Annette Lee	Boorcan	63,000
16	Trevor & Alison Wright	Laang	63,000
SDA Southwest BMCC average			170,000

Regional Field Services Round-up

Gippsland

Despite some very heavy frosts across the greater Gippsland region, conditions for pasture growth are reasonably good with plenty of sunlight and optimum levels of moisture. Hopes are up for a mild winter to allow our farmers to launch into a favourable spring period and with plenty of snow above Glenmaggie Weir the MID looks reasonably well set at this stage.

Northern Victoria

Conditions across Northern Victoria remain variable but show signs of improvement. North-east Victoria continues to impress, with Central and North-west Victoria now showing signs of life, fuelled in part by a significant lift in soil moisture levels. Local crops are an obvious beneficiary and are really starting to look the goods. Another much anticipated early July rain will be very welcome and valuable to say the least. Twice daily grass feed for the milkers provides a great mental boost and hopefully some financial boost too.

NSW/Sydney Region

Northern NSW continues to brace for a dry winter with feed stock shortages. Suppliers are encouraged to engage with SDA feeds re souring of hay and PKE. The South Coast is faring better and continues to shine with good milk quality. Central West, although dry, continues to battle through the drought bravely.

SW Victoria / SA

Good seasonal conditions have continued across much of the region, despite some areas further north and into SA enduring a later start to Autumn. Field Officers are busy updating income estimates and discussing the new pricing and quality structures out on farm with both current and potential suppliers. Members of the team also attend the SESA Innovation Day which again proved a positive event in the dairy calendar.

Tasmania

Winter has well and truly arrived in Tasmania. Seasonal conditions are quite wet and cold which is normal. We have seen June's milk production decline a little faster than in previous years. The focus now is 2019/20 and ensuring farms are set up from a feed and cow condition perspective.

Supplier meetings with CEO

Throughout June, Chair of the Board and CEO of Saputo Inc., Lino A. Saputo, Jr., and team met with more than 600 suppliers across Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and SA. The meetings were well attended and offered a chance for suppliers to hear more about the new pricing structure, Saputo Dairy Australia business and global markets, as well as discussing topics that were important to their farms and businesses. Suppliers can expect to see more of the local management team throughout the 2019/20 season.

Better Dairy Hygiene Part 1

Six principles for effective plant cleaning

1. Soiling of surfaces

Milk is made up of fat, protein, lactose, minerals and water. Alkali detergents work to remove fat and proteins while acid detergents act to remove minerals. Lactose is removed readily by both acids and alkalis. All dairies require both alkali and acid washes, but dose rates and frequency of each type will depend on water quality.

2. Water volume

As a general rule, vats require around 5% of their capacity per wash with 6-8L per cluster per cycle (pre-rinse, cleaning, sanitising) needed for jetter cleaning. Therefore a 12,000L vat will need 600L per wash, and a 50 unit rotary will need 300-400L per cycle. If water is hard, higher doses of alkali and more frequent acid cleaning is required. Is your wash drum big enough?

3. Thermal, chemical & kinetic energy

Successful cleaning requires thermal energy (hot water), chemical energy (detergent) and kinetic energy (turbulence from air injector). Wherever possible, the

first rinse after milking should be warm (e.g. 40°C) to remove soiling but not so hot (i.e. greater than 60°C) as to bake residue onto the surface. A cold first rinse won't remove soiling as effectively and will cool down stainless steel which reduces cleaning effectiveness for the next cycle. A starting temperature of 85°C for the wash will usually result in an optimal temperature of around 75°C inside the milking system. Proper slug formation is needed for cleaning the milk line and receiver. The receiver should be one-third full as the slug hits and the force and volume sufficient to cause the solution to 'swirl' around the entire receiver.

4. Contact time

Most detergents require a minimum recirculation time of 3-5 minutes to be effective. Wash water should be dumped when the temperature falls to 60°C to prevent re-deposition of soil.

5. Drainage

Effective drainage is essential to minimise microbial and residue contamination and to prevent the mixing of acid/alkali which

may reduce cleaning performance. Do you have any low spots or dead ends? Can these drain effectively?

6. Maintenance

Rubber ware must be changed at least annually and teat cup liners changed every 2,500 cow milkings. Research has shown that bacterial contamination in liners after 4,000 cow milkings is 6 times higher than in liners after 2,000 cow milkings.

To calculate how often teat cup liners need to be changed:

$$\gt (2500 \times \text{number of clusters}) / (\text{herd size} \times \text{number of milkings per day}) = \text{days between changes.}$$

For example, a 180-cow herd being milked twice daily in a 20-swing-over:

$$\gt (2500 \times 20) / (180 \times 2) = 50,000 / 360 = 139 \text{ days or every 4-5 months.}$$

A machine test conducted at least every 12 months is a requirement of your Milccare or Quality Plus QA program and will ensure essential components are working correctly.

Keeping on top of things

Over the past four months, there has been a lot going on – late autumn break, insects, autumn fertiliser application, Gibb Acid application and weeds in pasture.

Keeping the weeds under control is a priority so proper identification before spraying is imperative. There have been a couple of occasions where a supplier's description of a weed has been different to what the weed actually is. We recommend taking a photo of the weed beside a marker, (pen or coin) so size can be taken into consideration, and sending it to your MG Trading Agronomist or FSO so a correct chemical recommendation can be made. Capeweed is the first plant that will absorb nitrogen, so controlling them should be your first priority.

When spraying weeds keep an eye out for the insects including RELM, Aphids, Mites, Cockchafers and Winter Corby. You may need a couple of chemicals to control what you have in your pastures or you may only require one.

A cheap and effective way to drive pasture growth through the cold winter months when the soil temperature has dropped into single figures is Gibb Acid. Add this to your broad leaf spray to help achieve a better kill of weeds. The natural plant hormone will stimulate the weed to absorb the chemical quicker and result in a better uptake.

Regular application can help drive pasture growth. Work on an average daily usage of 1kg of nitrogen per day (100kg urea = 46kg Nitrogen) and apply every six weeks. During the winter months when the soil temp drops into single figures, soil microbes will take longer to break down straight nitrogen into a plant available form. Look at incorporating SOA (Sulphate of Ammonia) into the nitrogen application for a quicker plant take up.

If you have a couple of non-performing paddocks it may be better to use these as sacrifice paddocks rather than plant late winter for either a bulk silage/hay crop or early planting summer crop. Use the increased organic matter and natural plant available fertiliser to your advantage.

For extra advice any of the above scenarios, speak to your MG Trading Agronomist or FSO who can help with a solution for your unique farm needs.

The role of the gut in milk production efficiency

Food for thought

In many ways when you feed a cow, you're really feeding the microbes in its rumen. The cow cannot directly utilise most feed components, even simple sugars. It relies on the rumen microbes to convert feed to volatile fatty acids (VFAs) that the cow absorbs and uses to make energy and milk. About 90% of fibre digestion takes place in the rumen with the aid of microbes.

Like finger prints, it appears each cow has its own population of rumen bacteria, or unique bacterial community composition (BCC). Recent studies have shown that these BCCs can't be easily changed if a cow is kept on the same diet. In a recent study where two cows with different BCCs had a near total ruminal exchange, it was found that within a few weeks, each cow's BCC was back to its original state. The cow appears to have more control over the BCC than the diet or introduction of other microbes into the rumen.

Microbes and feed efficiency

Given feed is the one of the largest costs on a dairy farm, efficient utilisation of feed has an important effect on the farmer's bottom line. Efficiency of feed has commonly thought to be due to genetics, but recent studies are also showing that other factors may be important in explaining differences in feed efficiency among dairy cows and why some cows perform better than others on the same feed with the same genetic backgrounds.

In one study that identified changes in rumen contents between different cows, they expected to see a gradual return of BCC after the contents were exchanged. In fact, what they did see was a return towards the original BCC over a week. These results provide evidence of a direct effect that rumen BCC has on milk production efficiency.

A lot more goes on in the rumen than we think, and making sure the rumen is happy (optimal pH) will have major effects on efficiency and milk production. If you would like to know more, take a look at the Journal of Dairy Science website (www.journalofdairyscience.org).

Antibiotic / Residue Investigation - June 2019



Key Learnings

- > Always separate cows to be dried off from the milking herd prior to treatment
- > Always mark and record cows to be dried off prior to treatment
- > Always move cows well away from the dairy and milking herd following dry off to prevent re-entry

■ 100% Dry cow(s) not separated from milking herd and incorrectly marked

Contacts

Field Services		
Allansford Office (WCB & SDA)	03 5565 3200	
Mt Gambier Office (WCB & SDA)	08 8724 7661	
Transport		
WCB Allansford/Ballararat	0438 405 883	03 5565 3115
WCB Mt Gambier	0408 974 158	
SDA Transport	0427 494 776	13 Milk (136455)
Feeds		
SDA Feeds		1800 643 333

Dairy Services		
Simpson 24/7	03 5594 3006	
Tim Rolling	0488 008 915	
Peter Bignell	0488 010 428	
Phillip Weller	0419 431 839	
Koroit 24/7	03 5565 8738	
Glen Wright	0447 537 614	
Jason Knight	0447 662 223	

Classifieds

FOR SALE:

Delaval Milk Vat for sale. 9,700 ltrs.

Serviced yearly. HWS included.

Phone: Neville 0417 541 436

50 medium framed Holstein cows and heifers

- Freshly calved and calving in May/June
- 35 years of AI breeding. Lovely even line of cattle, bred not only for production. Great temperament, type and snug udders
- Herd has been in top 100 BMCC in Australia for the last 5 years, with last year average being 40,000
- All cattle have been dry cow treated and pregnancy tested. Calved and due to calve to AI sires. TLG Spokesman, Chilipepper and ALTA Steel
- POA

Contact Peter: 0429 943 559

WANTED TO LEASE:

Out-paddock

100-200 acres for Dairy Heifers and dry cows in the Simpson-Timboon area.

Contact Colin: 0429 206 180

Herd Manager

Required for a modern 700 cow farm.

House provided, 50 unit rotary. Curdievale/Timboon area.

Contact John: 0409 665 258

Wanting to Lease

- 50-100 acres Suitable for dairy heifers
- Koroit-MacArthur

Please contact Luke: 0438 693 839

Lease or Sharefarm

Experienced couple looking for a lease or sharefarm position. They own 130 dairy cows and machinery looking to start ASAP, consider all areas.

Please contact Terry: 0499 310 970

Want to place a Classified Ad?

Contact Stuart Hose E: stuart.hose@saputo.com M: 0409 728 541. Send in by the third Friday of the month to ensure your Classified appears in the following month's edition.